

CITY OF PETERBOROUGH



REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1958

CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

I.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1958



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29987751>

CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1958

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As at 31st DECEMBER, 1958)

Chairman:

COUN. MRS. M. SWIFT

Vice-Chairman:

COUN. G. A. SMITH

THE MAYOR, COUN. R. W. WESTCOMBE, M.B.E., J.P. (*ex-officio*)

CHAIRMAN, FINANCE COMMITTEE (*ex-officio*)

ALD. H. R. HORRELL

COUN. W. E. AUCLAND

COUN. G. W. S. BURDETT

COUN. C. R. GOOSE

COUN. G. W. GOVEY

COUN. C. E. HALL

COUN. T. C. HITCHBORN

COUN. F. L. MACKMAN

COUN. P. E. PALMER

COUN. A. L. ROBINSON, M.B.E.

COUN. J. A. SAVAGE

COUN. G. TYERS

COUN. D. C. WELDON

Medical Officer of Health:

G. DISON, M.C., L.R.C.P. & S. ED., D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G., (up to 14th Jan, 1958)

W. G. SMEATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., BARRISTER-AT-LAW (from 1st Mar., 1958)

Assistant Medical Officer of Health:

DIANA MCKNIGHT, M.B., B.S., D.C.H.

To: The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and
Councillors of the City of Peterborough.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the City of Peterborough for the year 1958.

It is again most gratifying to note that no cases of diphtheria have occurred during the year but the public are once more reminded that it is only with their continued co-operation in the immunisation campaign that this satisfactory state can be maintained.

During the year the slum clearance programme continued to proceed very satisfactorily and only 161 houses continue to be dealt with out of the 380 earmarked under the five year's programme which will terminate in 1960.

In my previous report I remarked upon the fact that the caravan situation, although it required watching, is well controlled at present. This cannot be said for the houseboats at present moored on the South Bank of the River Nene and have long constituted a menace to public health. Unfortunately this authority appears to have no legal power to take any remedial action and it would almost seem that we have to regard these public health dangers with a feeling of frustration until Parliament may decide to make the necessary amendments in the legislation.

Once more I make a plea for smoke abatement. As a growing industrial town it behoves this authority to keep in line with other authorities who are contributing to the National effort to purify the air. In this connection it is once more recommended that there should be no further delay in the adoption of the byelaw mentioned in Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, which provides that all new fireplaces should be capable of burning smokeless fuel.

Finally I wish to convey my thanks to the Mayor and Members of the Council for their continued support and the County Medical Officer for his co-operation and to acknowledge the assistance given by the Chief Public Health Inspector and all other Officers of the Council.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. SMEATON.

SECTION I

STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population for Peterborough is 55,750, which shows an increase of 20 over that of last year. The natural increase, i.e. excess of births over deaths was 424.

Birth Rate.

The Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population was 19.35. The national figure was 16.4. Both of these figures show an increase on last year.

The number of live births born during 1958 was 1,079, of which 522 were males and 557 were females. There were 59 illegitimate births during the year, which is an increase of 12 on the previous year.

There was an increase in the number of stillbirths during the year, the total figure being 19 as compared with 13 during 1957. None of these stillbirths were illegitimate. The Still Birth Rate was 17.30 and compares favourably with the national figure of 21.6.

Death Rate.

The crude Death Rate for the year was 11.75 per 1,000 population while the Index Death Rate was 11.87. This is a higher figure than for the previous year, which was 11.00. The national figure for 1958 was 11.7.

There were 325 deaths due to circulatory diseases, showing an increase of 20 over the previous year. 128 of these deaths were due to vascular lesions of the nervous system, an increase of 26 compared with last year. Deaths from coronary diseases accounted for 95, a decrease of 3 on last year's figure.

Malignant diseases accounted for 124 deaths, an increase of 6 on the 1957 figure. Of these deaths 29 were due to carcinoma of the lung and bronchus and is identical with last year's figure.

Deaths due to motor vehicle accidents was 12, an increase of 7 over the previous year. The number of deaths due to all other accidents was 13 as compared with 15 in 1957.

Infant Mortality Rate.

31 infants under the age of 1 year died during 1958. This is an increase of 6 over the previous year. The Infant Mortality Rate was 28.73 as compared with the national figure of 22.6.

Of these 31 infants 24 died under 4 weeks of age.

Maternal Mortality Rate.

There was again 1 death due to childbirth, which represented a maternal mortality rate of .91 per 1,000 total births.

SECTION II

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of notifications of infectious diseases received showed a very considerable drop over the previous year, although there was an increase in the number of cases of whooping cough, puerperal pyrexia, poliomyelitis and food poisoning.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 7 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year compared with 8 cases in 1957.

Diphtheria.

Once again it is extremely pleasing to note that there were no cases of diphtheria in the City.

Measles.

There were 251 cases of measles notified during the year as compared with the epidemic figure of 1,302 cases in 1957. Over half of the 251 cases notified were between the ages of 5 and 10 years.

Whooping Cough.

There was a considerable increase in the number of cases of whooping cough notified during the year. The figure was 174 as compared with 73 cases in 1957.

Acute Pneumonia.

There was a decrease in the number of cases of pneumonia notified, the figure for 1958 being 40 as compared with the figure of 51 in the previous year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

During 1958 there were 8 cases of puerperal pyrexia notified compared with 5 cases in 1957.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

The number of cases of acute poliomyelitis notified during 1958 was 6 as compared with the 1957 figure of 3. Of the 6 cases notified, 5 were paralytic and 1 was non-paralytic.

Dysentery.

Only 2 cases of dysentery were notified during 1958 whereas 18 cases were notified during 1957.

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified during 1958 was 28, the same as last year.

Food Poisoning.

There were exactly twice as many cases of food poisoning notified during 1958 as in the previous year, namely 32 cases compared with 16 in 1957.

SECTION III

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

The Weather.

1958 was certainly a wet year, the total rainfall being 26.61 inches. More than 4 inches of rain fell in 1958 as compared with 1957, and, as in 1957, there were seven months which exceeded the average. Only two months, namely April and November, were really dry.

The rainfall for the six summer months April to September, including the dry April, was 14.89 inches, 33% above the average.

Since 1907 only five other years have exceeded 26 inches.

June was the wettest month and in the 35 days from May 29th to July 2nd, 6.17 inches fell. Rain fell on 179 days, 16 more than the average, but days with .04 or over were only 109.

The longest period without rain was 11 days from March 13th to 23rd and 10 days at the end of October. The driest period was really from November 13th to December 7th when only .09 fell.

Meticulous records of the rainfall at 74 London Road, Peterborough, were kept by Mr. E. H. Colman and Table VII showing the rainfall month by month will be found in the Appendix.

Housing.

The number of persons on the waiting list on 1st January, 1959, was 1,181, which shows a decrease of 27 as compared with the figure at 1st January, 1958.

Further progress was maintained during the year in connection with the clearance of Westwood Camp Sites and at the end of 1958 only three huts remained in occupation.

Water Supply.

There has been no change in the source of the Corporation's supply.

During the year all treated water was satisfactory, although there was a great variation in the bacteriological quality of the untreated water.

The average daily consumption in the city was 3,270,000 gallons, which represents an increase of 218,000 gallons per day over last year and a consumption of 58.7 gallons per head per day. In addition, 1,372,000 gallons were supplied to neighbouring authorities, representing an increase of 49,000 gallons per day on the 1957 figure. The number of dwellings within the city with direct water supplied by tap in the house was 18,446 and the number supplied by standpipe 387.

Public Slipper Baths.

The number of persons using the Corporation's Public Slipper Baths was 28,749, which represents a weekly average of 553. This represents a decrease of 71 persons a week as compared with 1957. Once again the number of males who made use of the facilities was far in excess of the females. The number of old-age pensioners who made use of the baths was 515 as compared with 466 in the previous year.

Open-Air Swimming Pools.

The Public Swimming Pool was open to the public from 3rd May to 7th September between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. The number of bathers during this period was 135,785 and the number of spectators was 23,954. This shows an increase in both swimmers and spectators over the figures of 1957, which were 127,262 swimmers and 21,183 spectators. Regular samples of water were taken from the pool and submitted for laboratory examination. All the samples showed the water to be of suitable bacterial and chemical quality for use in the Swimming Pool.

Public Cleansing and Scavenging.

There are approximately 21,000 moveable ashbins in the City.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The construction of a surface water sewer at Werrington was completed during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

There are still 43 buckets and one tank to be emptied weekly by the City Engineer's Department, in addition to the 27 buckets in the Newark area.

SECTION IV

MISCELLANEOUS

Health Education.

A total of 8 talks were given to various organisations in the City and 222 people attended these talks.

International Certificates.

During the year 309 International Certificates were franked in the Department. These were made up as follows:—

Smallpox	266
Cholera	23
Others	20

National Assistance Act, 1948 — Section 47.

Once again it was not found necessary to compulsorily remove any persons under the above Act during the year. However, 3 aged persons were persuaded to enter an institution voluntarily where they could have proper care and attention. This obviated the necessity of having them removed compulsorily.

Medical Examinations.

30 medical examinations were carried out for persons entering the employment of the Corporation and 4 were carried out for the Combined Police Authority.

APPENDIX

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR 1958

Area of the City in Acres	10.022
Population: Census 1951	53,412
Registrar-General's Estimate (Mid. 1957) ...	55,730
Registrar-General's Estimate (Mid. 1958) ...	*55,750
Density of Population: Persons per acre	5.56
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1957)	18,483
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1958)	18,838
Housing Density; houses per acre	1.88
Mean number of occupants per house	2.96
Rateable Value as at 1st October, 1958	£795,557
Product of a Penny Rate	£3,221/19/1

*Statistics in this Report are based on this estimate of resident population.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1958

Live Births.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	490	530	1,020
Illegitimate	32	27	59
Total Live Births	522	557	1,079
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population:			19.35
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births:			5.47%

Still Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	10	9	19
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total Still births	10	9	19
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births:			17.30
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population:			0.34
Total Birth Rate (Live and Still) per 1,000 population:			19.70
(Comparability Factor 1.00)			

Deaths

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Numbers during year	347	308	655
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population:			11.75
Index Death Rate per 1,000 population			11.87
(Comparability factor 1.01)			

Maternal Mortality

(Number of women dying as a result of childbirth—
Heading No. 30 in the Registrar-General's Short List).

	<i>Death Rate per 1,000 Total Births</i>
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1 .91

Infant Mortality.

(Deaths of Infants under one year of age):

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	17	14	31
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births — Total			28.73
„ „ „ „ „ „ — Legitimate			29.41
„ „ „ „ „ „ — Illegitimate			16.95

Neonatal Mortality.

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age:

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	14	10	24
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births:			22.24

OTHER STATISTICS, 1958

Deaths from Coronary Disease, Angina (all ages)	95
„ „ other Cardiac Conditions (all ages)	88
„ „ Malignant Neoplasm (all ages)	124
„ „ Measles (all ages)	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0

TABLE 1

**BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN
INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR THE YEAR, 1958**

Figures for the City of Peterborough, and, where available,
for England and Wales

					<i>City of Peterborough</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>	
					<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</i>	
BIRTHS:—							
Live	*****	*****	*****	*****	1079	19.35	16.4
Still	*****	*****	*****	*****	19	0.34	0.36
DEATHS:—							
All causes	*****	*****	*****	*****	655	11.75	11.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers					0	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	*****	*****	*****	*****	0	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	*****	*****	*****	*****	0	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	*****	*****	*****	*****	5	0.09	0.10
Influenza	*****	*****	*****	*****	2	0.04	0.05
Smallpox	*****	*****	*****	*****	0	0.00	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	*****	*****	*****	*****	0	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	*****	*****	*****	*****	27	0.48	0.54
NOTIFICATIONS:—							
Typhoid Fever	*****	*****	*****	*****	—	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	*****	*****	*****	*****	—	0.00	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	*****	*****	*****	*****	1	0.02	0.02
Scarlet Fever	*****	*****	*****	*****	7	0.13	0.86
Whooping Cough	*****	*****	*****	*****	174	3.12	0.74
Diphtheria	*****	*****	*****	*****	—	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	*****	*****	*****	*****	1	0.02	0.07
Smallpox	*****	*****	*****	*****	—	0.00	0.00
Measles	*****	*****	*****	*****	251	4.50	5.75
Pneumonia	*****	*****	*****	*****	40	0.72	0.49
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis):—							
Paralytic	*****	*****	*****	*****	5	0.09	0.03
Non-Paralytic	*****	*****	*****	*****	1	0.02	0.01
Food Poisoning	*****	*****	*****	*****	32	0.57	0.20
Acute Encephalitis:—							
Infective	*****	*****	*****	*****	—	0.00	0.00
Post-infectious	*****	*****	*****	*****	—	0.00	0.00
Malaria	*****	*****	*****	*****	—	0.00	—
Dysentery	*****	*****	*****	*****	2	0.04	0.85
Ophthalmia neonatorum	*****	*****	*****	*****	—	0.00	0.03

	<i>City of Peterborough</i>		<i>England & Wales</i>
	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i>	
MORTALITY:—			
Infant Deaths under one year of age	31	28.73	22.6
Infant Deaths under four weeks of age	24	22.24	16.2
	<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Total Births</i>	
Women dying as a result of child-birth	1	0.91	
NOTIFICATIONS:—			
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	7.29	

TABLE II
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1958

<i>Causes of Death as given in the Registrar-General's Short List</i>	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Rates per 1,000 pop.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Deaths</i>
	M.	F.	Total		
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	0	3	0.054	4.580
Tuberculosis, Other	1	1	2	0.036	3.053
Syphilitic Disease	2	2	4	0.072	6.107
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Measles	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Other infective and parasitic Diseases	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Malignant Neoplasm; stomach	9	5	14	0.251	21.374
Malignant Neoplasm; lung, bronchus	26	3	29	0.520	44.275
Malignant Neoplasm; breast	0	22	22		
Malignant Neoplasm; uterus	0	6	6		
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	26	27	53	0.951	80.916
Luekaemia, Aleukameia	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
Diabetes	3	0	3	0.054	4.580
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	61	67	128	2.296	195.419
Coronary Disease, Angina	60	35	95	1.704	145.037
Hypertension with heart Disease	6	4	10	0.179	15.267
Other heart disease	38	40	78	1.399	119.083
Other circulatory disease	7	7	14	0.251	21.374
Influenza	1	1	2	0.036	3.053
Pneumonia	17	10	27	0.484	41.221
Bronchitis	18	6	24	0.430	36.641
Other Diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2	0.036	3.053
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	6	0	6	0.108	9.160
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	3	6	0.108	9.160
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	7	10	0.179	15.267
Hyperplasia of Prostate	7	0	7		
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1	1		
Congenital malformations	7	2	9	0.161	13.740
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	26	42	68	1.220	103.816
Motor vehicle accidents	11	1	12	0.215	18.321
All other accidents	2	11	13	0.233	19.847
Suicide	3	4	7	0.126	10.687
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0	0.000	0.000
TOTALS	347	308	655		

TABLE III

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1958

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases at all ages	Total Cases Notified												Total Deaths
		Age Periods—Years												
		Under 1	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100 and over		
Smallpox	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Enteric or typhoid fever (excluding paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles (excluding rubella)	251	4	20	25	26	29	146	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	174	20	19	23	24	22	61	2	2	1	—	—	—	
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenza)	40	4	4	2	1	2	5	1	1	3	5	7	5	
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	—	
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis:—														
(1) Paralytic	5	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(2) Non-Paralytic	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Food Poisoning	32	1	—	—	1	—	16	6	—	2	1	4	1	

TABLE IV
TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1958

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1-	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-	6	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
35-	6	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals, 1958	21	3	2	2	2	—	—	—
Totals, 1957	18	7	3	—	2	—	—	—
Totals, 1956	15	17	1	2	5	—	—	—

TABLE V
TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1958

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
No. on Register 1/1/58	176	164	10	5
Notified during 1958	32	9	2	2
Removed during 1958	14	6	—	—
No. on Register 31/12/58	194	167	12	7

TABLE VI
HOUSING STATISTICS

Number on Waiting List as at 1st January, 1958	.....	.....	.....	1208
New Applications received during year	.....	.....	.....	543
			TOTAL	1751
Number of Applicants housed or removed from Register during 1958				299
Applications cancelled during the year	.....	.....	.....	271
			TOTAL	570
Number on Waiting List as at 1st January, 1959	.....	.....	.....	1181
Number of Houses erected by Council — 1958				
Houses: 2 and 3 bedroom type	.....	.....	.....	234
Flats: 2 bedroom type	.....	.....	.....	24
Old Persons Bungalows	.....	.....	.....	8
			TOTAL	266

TABLE VII
RAINFALL AT 74 LONDON ROAD, PETERBOROUGH — 1958

1958	Total Inches	Difference from Average		% of Average	Wettest Day	
		Deficit	Excess		Day	Amount
January	..... 2.20		.24	112	28	.87
February	..... 3.20		1.74	219	24	1.01
March	..... 1.11	.26		81	28	.21
April	..... .65	.85		43	5	.21
May	..... 2.42		.50	126	15	.65
June	..... 4.76		3.07	282	26	.91
July	..... 2.84		.67	131	27	.67
August	..... 1.98	.09		96	12	.74
September	..... 2.24		.41	122	14	.48
October	..... 1.72	.20		90	2	.46
November	..... 1.42	.79		64	1	.50
December	..... 2.07		.47	129	9 & 10	.34
	26.61	2.19	7.10	122½	Feb. 24	1.01

Excess 4.91

CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

II.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1958

(J. HALL, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.)

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

STAFF, 1958

Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. HALL, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., CERT.R.SAN.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

(South) P. LANGSTON, M.A.P.H.I., CERT.R.SAN.I.

(North) K. R. ENDERBY, CERT.R.SAN.I.

(West) A. MORTON (Pupil)

(East) A. N. VENTERS (Assistant)

M. FIRMEDOW (Pupil)

Clerks:

G. LARRINGTON

Mrs. M. HORMAN (Resigned 30-4-58)

Mrs. F. WOOD (Part-time)

Miss O. K. SMITH (From 19-5-58)

Public Health Inspector's Dept.,
Town Hall,
Peterborough.

1959.

To: The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen
and Councillors of the City of Peterborough.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1958, this being my tenth Annual Report, and the forty-eighth in the series.

In the year 1911, the Sanitary Officer's Regulations came into force making it obligatory to appoint a Qualified Sanitary Officer having the approved qualifications. In this year, Mr. Seden, my predecessor was appointed and submitted the first report of this series.

As in previous years, for the benefit of new members of the Council, I comment on the establishment as printed on the opposite page. It will be noticed that two of the Districts are not covered by qualified staff but in the case of Mr. Venters, his local knowledge and experience is invaluable and Mr. Morton, although not qualified will be in the very near future. Mr. Firmedow, the Pupil Public Health Inspector, successfully completed his first year Building Construction course and it seems probable that it will be advantageous for him to complete more than is required by the Examination Joint Board and to continue and obtain his National Certificate.

I have commented fairly fully on each of the sections of the report for easy reading and I hope the members of the Council find this report interesting as well as giving them information on the work of the Department.

I should like to thank the Chairman and the Members of the Public Health Committee for their support, Dr. Smeaton, the Medical Officer of Health and the members of my Staff for their co-operation and loyal help.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,
J. HALL,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

COMPLAINTS

In my last Report, I expressed the hope that the new Rent Act would be more successful in attaining its object than that of 1954.

57 Certificates of Disrepair were issued; the work has been completed and the certificates revoked. Although this is not a great number compared with the number of houses which could have been affected, it is obvious from the improved condition of the houses in the town that work has been completed without this additional pressure from the Tenant.

Although Landlords and Tenants appear to be making full use of the Rent Act, the number of complaints of nuisances and defects in houses was approximately the same as last year. This suggests that at the houses where works are being done by an amicable agreement between Landlord and Tenant, complaints would never have been made of disrepair and that in this way the Rent Act has improved the general condition of housing above what would have been achieved by rigorous action under the existing Housing Act and Public Health Acts.

The number of complaints for the year was 768 including 288 of rats and mice and in 23 cases rat complaints arose from defective drains.

Statutory Notices Served

65 Statutory Notices were served as follows:—

HOUSING ACT, 1957.

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of Notices</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>No.</i>
9	6	Houses demolished	3
		Notices outstanding at end of year ...	1
17	4	Work completed by Owner	2
		Outstanding at end of year	4

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

24	30	Work completed by Local Authority...	23
		Work completed by Owner	7
48	3	Work completed by Local Authority ...	3
83	1	Premises cleansed	1
84	1	Articles cleansed	1
45	5	Work completed by Owner	5
39	5	Work completed by Owner	4
		Outstanding at end of year	1
93	7	Work completed by Owner	5
		Outstanding at end of year	2
56	3	Outstanding at end of year	3

With reference to the number of Notices served under Section 24 of the Public Health Act, this number remains high because of the rat infestations caused in the first place by defective drains. Since 1949 when the City Council took over the work of rodent control, it has been found necessary to do work on 1,841 drains, at least 90% of which were discovered as a result of rat infestations.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

The various sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, have been enforced during the year. I give below an abridged list of nuisances and defects remedied:—

Drains relaid, repaired, cleansed and ground made good, etc. ...	194
W.C.'s and urinals repaired, renewed or reconstructed	40
Roofs repaired, rain-water pipes renewed, etc.	63
Chimney stacks rebuilt, etc., walls rebuilt and repaired	23
Woodwork repaired (floors, windows, doors, etc.)	22
New sinks fixed, waste pipes refitted, etc.	9
Accumulations of refuse and manure removed	24
Van dwellings removed	16
Miscellaneous	63

SMOKE ABATEMENT

21 complaints were received of smoke nuisances of which 17 were complaints of locomotives causing excessive smoke usually whilst waiting to enter the North Station. In each case, where the complaint was substantiated; the number of the Locomotive known, and the time of the occurrence, disciplinary action was taken against the Engine Driver and Fireman. It was interesting to note that the guilty crews were in very few instances, based on Peterborough.

During the year in question, complaints were made about the Coal Hoist at New England to the Line Traffic Manager at King's Cross and the local Motive Power Engineer, as a result a system of spraying the coal with a chemical in water solution is to be introduced during the next year. This is a system which according to reports should succeed in abating the dust nuisance from this plant. I await with interest to see if this system gives the desired results.

With reference to last year's report, one of the Firms which installed mechanical stoking and a redesigned system of draught control is a good advertisement locally, in as much as the numerous complaints of excessive smoke have disappeared completely and the Firm expects to pay for the installation within three years on the saving of labour and fuel.

I am sorry to see the Local Authority is so apathetic about smoke control areas and has not yet adopted the byelaw regarding the installation of firegrates capable of burning smokeless fuel.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

This year there are 450 vans on 33 sites. This is a decrease of 15 sites but an increase in the number of vans and is, as the result of the policy of City Council and the Town and Country Planning Authority to concentrate moveable dwellings on sites provided with main sewerage, water and electricity.

During this year, 184 visits were paid to the various sites.

The Owner of an unlicensed site was fined £5: and 5/- for each day after 28 days for keeping 3 unlicensed moveable dwellings on his site.

SWIMMING POOLS

Samples of water were taken during the year from the swimming pools for bacteriological examination, to test for the free chlorine content of the water. Six samples throughout the season were found to be unsatisfactory but remedial steps were taken immediately.

26 visits were made to each of the pools during the season.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of premises disinfected this year was 25 as against 12 last year. Disinfection is now only done in cases of Tuberculosis. In addition to this, Library Books for all infectious diseases are disinfected before returning to the Libraries.

INFESTATIONS & DIRTY PREMISES

6 premises were cleansed and 8 verminous premises disinfested.

Referring to the Statutory Notices served, it will be noticed that in one case it was necessary for the local authority to do the work in default.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

26 visits have been paid to each of the three Common Lodging Houses, one of which was discontinued during the year and a new one registered so that although there were three Common Lodging Houses in existence during the year only two were functioning at any one time.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The only offensive trade carried on in Peterborough is that of Rag and Bone Merchant. Offal and Refuse from the Slaughterhouses is collected by a firm of Manure Makers, see report on Meat Inspection.

KNACKER'S YARD

None practising in the City.

FAIRGROUNDS

Inspections were made of the Fairs during the year and as in previous years all vans were found to be provided with proper means of sanitation and water supply. The stall used for selling food to the employees of the showmen, in addition to those selling food to the general public, were visited before and during the fairs.

The catering arrangements at the annual "Show" were inspected before and during the Show. The improvements made to the facilities for washing up, washing hands and collecting refuse made last year continued during the year under review.

PROVISION OF SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

All the premises which are licensed at the Brewster Sessions have been visited at regular intervals during the year; these included public houses, music halls, theatres, cinemas and miscellaneous places of entertainment. Rebuilding and improvement of existing public houses continues.

62 visits were made to these premises immediately before the Brewster Sessions.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938-55

PROSECUTIONS

Offence	Verdict	
The sale of two mouldy pies. Remarks — No pies now kept over-night.	Pleaded guilty — fined £5.	
Mouldy sausage roll sold to the prejudice of the purchaser.	Fined £5.	} Resulted in Bakehouse closing down.
Mouldy Russian cake sold to the prejudice of the purchaser.	Fined £3: and costs.	
The sale of a mouldy cake to the prejudice of the purchaser. Remarks — Tightening up in the delivery of this type of foodstuff to the Vendor	Fined £2.	
Piece of tinfoil from cigarette packet in scone.	Fined 10/-.	
Remarks — Premises spring cleaned and re-arrangement of night shift.		

The various premises registered or subject to regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act have been regularly inspected, in particular the Cafes and Restaurant kitchens. The Hotels, which are for the greater part situated in the centre of the City, are visited once a week, varying the day and the time of visit.

An analysis has been made of the 549 shops which sell food in the City and is given herewith:—

Butchers	63	} Total 549 (none has been counted under more than one heading)
Shops Selling Ice-cream	203	
Wet & Fried Fish Shops	42	
Confectioners	39	
Greengrocers	23	
General Grocers	119	
Cafes	60	

814 visits were made to the above shops.

In addition to the foregoing, there are 16 Bakehouses, 9 of which are situated at the rear of the Bakers' Shops. The premises have been kept in a good state of decoration throughout the year and a reasonable standard of cleanliness maintained, although in some cases only after representations from this Department.

80 visits have been paid to these Bakehouses during the year.

As a result of two prosecutions, one of the Bakehouses situated at the rear of the shop was closed down by the proprietor.

REGISTERED PREMISES UNDER SECTION 16

Except for occasional traders coming into the City area, mostly on Sundays, all the Ice-cream sold is prepacked.

- (a) Ice-cream: Ice-cream is manufactured by two firms in the City. These manufacturers pasteurise their ice-cream by the "Holder" method.

The recording thermometers are regularly inspected and checked with the certified thermometers owned by the Department.

There are 203 premises retailing ice-cream in the City, to which 110 visits have been made.

- (b) Making-up Premises: 139 visits were paid to 51 premises in the City (1 for the preparation of boiled crabs). This does not include visits to Making-up Premises adjacent to Slaughterhouses or to premises visited for the surrender of unsound food.

FOOD OTHER THAN MEAT

141 requests were received during the year, which resulted in 350 Condemnation Notes being issued, covering 2,553 tins of food and 11 cwt. 2 qtrs. 13 lbs. of other foodstuffs.

FOOD SAMPLING

During the year 26 Formal Samples of milk were taken. One of the samples was unsatisfactory being deficient in milk-fat to the extent of 38%. This sample was taken from a local Milk Bar and was the result of using milk out of bottles which had been standing. On this City Council's instructions, a cautionary letter was sent.

Another sample was unsatisfactory but was certified as being genuine milk. The deficiency was due to natural causes and the local Agricultural Executive Committee was informed.

The average composition of the milks gave 3.71% Fat and 8.91% Solids-not-Fat.

25 Formal and 63 Informal Samples of food other than milk were taken, as follows:—

INFORMAL — One each of the following:

Pork Brawn, Fish Fingers, Puff Pastry, Lard, Cooking Fat, Butter, Farm Butter, Dairy Cream Slices, Iodine, Camphorated Oil, Olive Oil, Cake Decoration, Plums, White pepper, Cream Cheese, Black Pudding, Steak Pie, Chippolata Pork Sausage, Dairy Cream Bon Bons, Ice-cream with added cream, Butter Ice-cream, Full Dairy Ice-cream, Smoked Snaithe, Double Cream, Buttered Cheese Spread, Ground Almonds, Gelatine, Culinary Oil, Lime Jelly Marmalade, Saccharine Tablets, Coffee Spread, Cocktail Sausages, Wholemeal Flour, Mix-a-shake, Cheese Cake filling, Malt Vinegar, Lime Juice Cordial, Mince-meat, Pure Jersey Cream, Icing Sugar, Mixed Cut Peel, and Five Samples of Pork Sausage, Six Margarine, Two Milk Loaves, Five Ice-cream, Two Strawberry Jam and Two Ground Nutmegs.

FORMAL — One each of the following:—

Lard, Margarine, Cream Cheese, Black Pudding, Chippolata Pork Sausage, Clotted Cream Caramels, Fish Cakes, Cream Slices, Milk Cheese, Potted Meat, Brandy, Rum, Gin, Fish Sticks and Four Samples of Butter, Two Whisky and Five of Pork Sausages.

The Five samples of Margarine were also tested for vitamin content.

With special reference to some of the above samples —

Milk Cheese:— The sample of milk cheese was found to be low in Milk-fat content which follows the experience of sampling in 1956. Because of this, the City Council wrote to the Ministry supporting the representations of the Public Analysts' Association asking for a standard for this product.

Butter:— The legal maximum moisture content of butter is 16%, a very generous allowance which in past years has not been normally worked up to. The sample of butter although having under the 16% of moisture allowed contained nearly this amount. Representations were made to the Milk Marketing Board asking whether they would work to a less moisture content.

Clotted Cream Caramels:—A sample of these caramels was found to contain 6.35% of milk or butter fat content. The Firm in question agreed to increase this butter fat content to not less than 8%.

Pork Sausages:—

Two samples were deficient in meat, one to the extent of 3.2% and the other 4.3% based on the previous Ministry of Food standard which I find is the normal minimum meat content in this City. On representations being made to the vendors, they promised in the future to manufacture to the local standard.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED & STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Sterilised milk is delivered by two firms, one operating from Grimsby the other from Nottingham.

43 samples were taken and submitted to the Pathological Laboratory for approved tests, all of which were satisfactory.

NOTE—For Tuberculin Tested Milk, the test is Methylene Blue, for keeping quality, i.e. cleanliness; for Pasteurised Milk, the tests are Methylene Blue, for keeping quality, i.e. cleanliness, and Phosphatase to show whether or not the milk has been heat-treated; for Sterilised Milk a Turbidity Test is applied.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

During the year, the new Slaughterhouse Act received royal assent which gave the Minister power to make regulations concerning the structure and hygiene of Slaughterhouses. It also gives the Minister power to make regulations for the prevention of cruelty during the slaughter of animals. These regulations were made during the year but do not come into force until 1959. in the meantime, all Slaughterhouse Owners have been made fully aware of the requirements and it appears that they will all try to bring their Slaughterhouses up to the standards imposed by these regulations.

MEAT INSPECTION
Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
1. Number killed	4337	79	91	11,777	17,654
2. Number inspected	4337	79	91	11,777	17,654
3. All diseases except T.B. and C.B. whole carcases condemned	4	3	4	20	11
4. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	329	6	1	117	332
5. Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and C.B.	7.68%	11.31%	5.49%	1.16%	1.95%
6. T.B. ONLY Whole carcasses con- demned	8	4	—	—	5
7. Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	239	4	1	—	230
8. Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with T.B.	5.69%	10.13%	1.2%	—	1.33%
9. CYSTICERCOSIS Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	38	1	—	—	—
10. Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	38	1	—	—	—
11. Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

It should be noted that the figures shown against lines 3, 6 and 9 in the table represent whole carcasses condemned as detailed above. The figures against lines 4 and 7 represent parts of carcasses condemned i.e. heads, tongues, livers, lungs, etc.

The total number of animals slaughtered during 1958 was:—

Beast (including Cows)	4,416	Pigs	.....	.....	.....	17,654
Sheep and Lambs	..... 11,777	Calves	.....	.....	.....	91

The total weight of carcasses condemned during the year was:—

Beef	.....	.....	.....	730 stones
Mutton	.....	.....	.....	64 stones
Veal	.....	.....	.....	17 stones
Pork	.....	.....	.....	124 stones

The number of carcasses condemned for T.B. and C.B. is shown in the table.

It will be noticed how many animals are affected with a localised form of T.B. usually the head or mesenterics, compared with the number generalised. Further, although inspection is very keen the incidence of T.B. found is falling. So far as the percentage of diseased animals is concerned, the percentage of beasts affected has returned to below the 1956 figure. The percentage of cows affected is approximately the same as last year. In the case of calves, on the small kill, I am of the opinion that the percentage cannot give an indication of the incidence of this disease. The percentage of pigs affected remains approximately the same as last year.

The incidence of cysticercosis on approximately the same kill has fallen from 63 to 39.

BEEF

8 Beast	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	T.B.
4 Cows	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	T.B.
38 Beast	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Cysticercosis
1 Cow	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Cysticercosis
2 Beast	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pyæmia
1 Beast	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Septic peritonitis
1 Cow	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Dropsy & emaciation
1 Cow	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Septic metritis
1 Cow	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Septicaemia
1 Beast	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Black quarter

VEAL

1 Calf	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Septic peritonitis
1 Calf	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Dropsy & emaciation
1 Calf	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Septic Pneumonia
1 Calf	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Immaturity

MUTTON

2 Sheep	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pyæmia
15 Sheep	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Dropsy & emaciation
1 Sheep	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pneumonia
1 Sheep	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Moribund
1 Sheep	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Bone taint

PORK

5 Pigs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	T.B.
3 Pigs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Septic peritonitis
1 Pig	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Moribund
2 Pigs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pyæmia
2 Pigs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Septic pneumonia
1 Pig	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Septic mastitis
1 Pig	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Broken shoulder
1 Pig	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Bruised and fevered

Disposal of Condemned Meat and Other Foods

All condemned meat is collected by Mays and Sons Ltd., of Bourne, for disposal by digestion on their premises. All condemned meat and offal is immediately coloured green to ensure that it will not be sold for human consumption.

Other foods, when condemned, are collected and disposed of by burying in the Council's tip. Sometimes the food is poisoned for use as rat baits.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933—54

This Act will be superceded in 1959 by the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958 and regulations made therein.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The total of Factories included Bakehouses, Making-up Premises, Dairies and one Ice-cream Factory. The visits to these premises are not included under this heading except where action was required under the appropriate section of the Factories Act.

Number of Factories on register—Mechanical	.....	.....	.....	242
Number of Factories on register—Non-mechanical	.....	.....	.....	31
Number of Workplaces on register	.....	.....	.....	23
				<hr/> 296
Number of inspections	.....	.....	.....	208
Notices from H.M. Inspector of Factories:—				
Re: (a) New Factories	.....	.....	.....	6
(b) Deletions	.....	.....	.....	11
(c) Change of Occupier	.....	.....	.....	—
Sanitary accommodation repaired or provided	.....	.....	.....	16
Letters sent to Factory Owners	.....	.....	.....	30

Various nuisances and works of cleansing were carried out after informal action by this Department, in addition to the above.

Visits have been paid to 31 Building Sites re: sanitary accommodation, comprising of 395 houses under construction.

OUTWORKERS

Addresses of Outworkers:—

Received from Employers	.....	.....	.....	.....	157
Received from other Councils	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Forwarded from other Councils	.....	.....	.....	.....	3

All the Outworkers' premises in the City have been visited, and found to be satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

To avoid the difficulty experienced in previous years of doing the sewer treatment without interruption, this work was carried out this year in April and October thus avoiding the very bad weather of December and January and the complication of Christmas holidays. These periods are the times when the rat infestation of sewers should be at its greatest being the breeding seasons and explains the increased take of poison laid.

As mentioned the previous year, I believe that the rat population of the agricultural land surrounding the City moves in as rats are killed in the City.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				Agri-cultural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling- houses (including Council Houses)	(3) All other including Business Premises	(4) Total of columns (1), (2) and (3)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 & 2)	30	18,251	3,437	21,718	70
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	14	211	62	287	1
(b) Survey under the Act	28	590	184	802	25
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	453	601	1,054	—
3. Total inspections carried out — including re-inspections	237	655	485	1,377	27
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 2) which were found to be infested by					
(a) Rats	Major 2	—	1	3	1
	Minor 15	83	24	121	—
(b) Mice	Major —	4	—	4	—
	Minor —	7	9	16	—

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949—continued

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				Agri-cultural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling- houses (including Council Houses)	(3) All other including Business Premises	(4) Total of columns (1), (2) and (3)	
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 4) treated by the Local Authority	17	94	34	144	1
6. Total treatment carried out — including re-treatments	69	97	71	237	—
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	
10. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out					Nil

